

# **BASKING SHARK**

PROJECT



**Connecting the dots:**  
highlighting the need  
for a centralised  
directory to enhance  
data coordination

Harriet Allen & Cat Gordon  
Shark Trust



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# Citizen Science Considerations

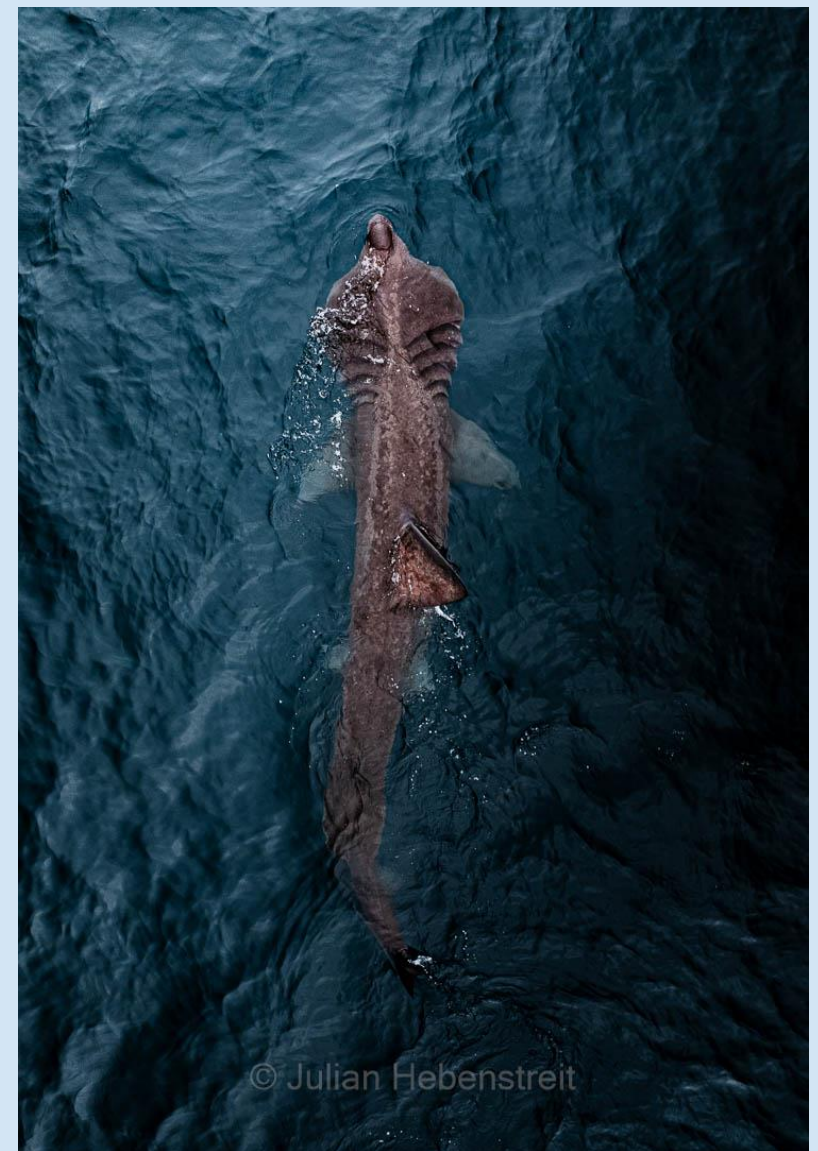
- Duplicate data from different sources
- Duplicate sightings
- Influence of participation
- Regional influences



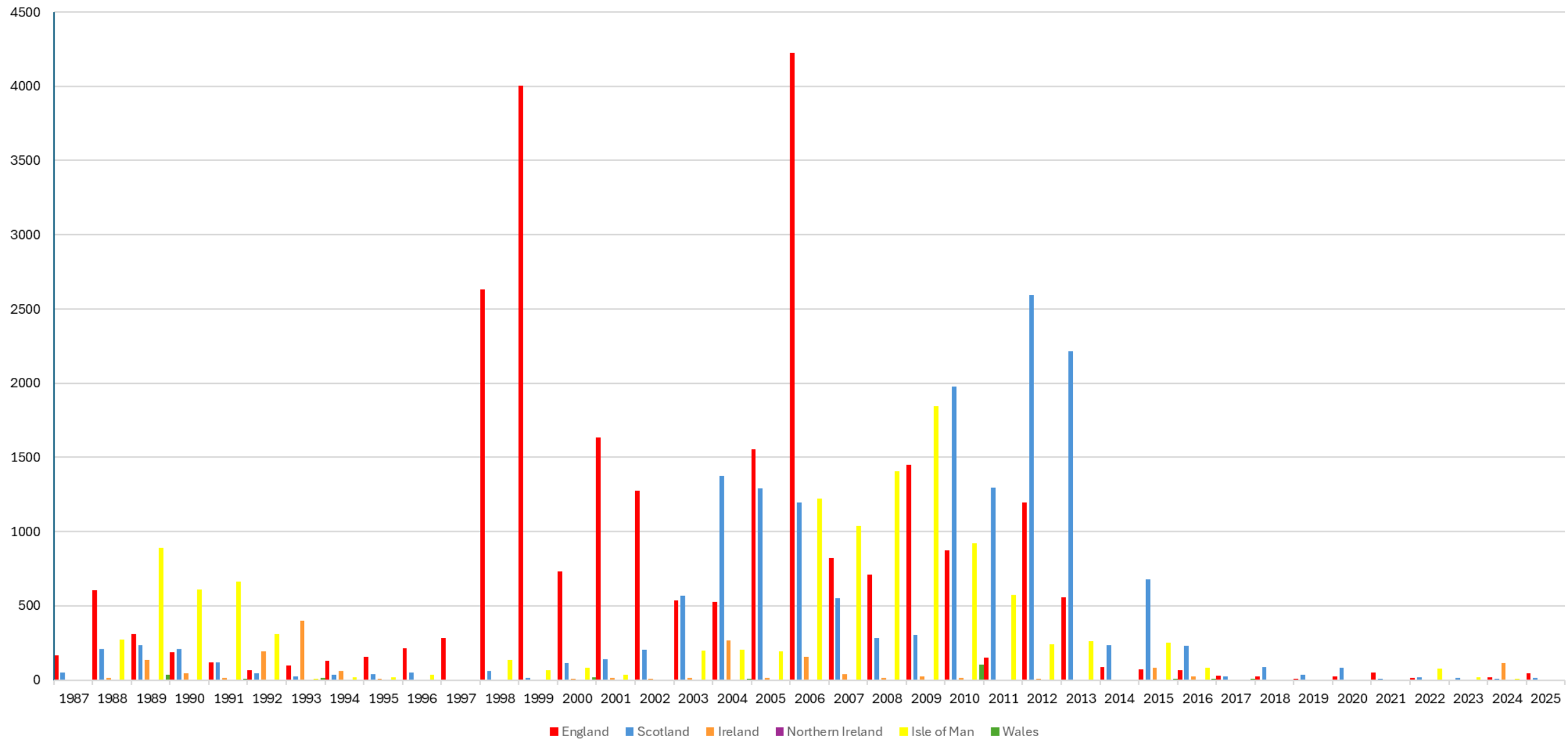
© Frogfish Photography

# Shark Trust data

- 15,697 records
- 56,532 individuals (once duplicate data removed)
- 1987-2025
- Data sources:
  - our Basking Shark Project
  - MCS Basking Shark Watch (legacy data)
  - Manx Whale and Dolphin Watch



Cumulative number of sharks



England Scotland Ireland Northern Ireland Isle of Man Wales

# Disparate Datasets

- Multiple regional projects collect data
- Need to have the full picture to draw accurate conclusions
- Split datasets = potential for wrongful interpretation
- Hard to find out who holds what type of data and its extent
- Who is best for citizen scientists to submit data to



# The Basking Shark Data Directory

- Born from the Basking Shark Forum in Feb 2024 and the following data meeting held in December
- A simple way to signpost to relevant datasets
- Does not hold the data itself, just the metadata



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## About the data

### What type of data do you hold \*

- Sightings / citizen science observations
- Survey
- Tracking
- Photo ID
- Environmental data
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Please provide a brief description of the dataset

Max of 250 characters, around 2/3 sentences.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### What time frame does your dataset cover? \*

YYYY - YYYY or YYYY - present

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### How many records does your dataset hold? \*

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### What is the geographic extent of your data?

Please provide the maximum and minimum latitude and longitude for your dataset (**Xmin**, **Xmax**, **Ymin** and **Ymax**) in decimal degrees. Please note - We do need this information for the directory, but if you don't have this information to hand, leave it blank, we can get back to you.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### What broad region does the dataset cover? \*

e.g. Global, Northwest Atlantic, United Kingdom

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### Is your dataset restricted access? \*

- Open Access
- Restricted Access
- Embargoed
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### If the data is Open Access, please provide the URL to the dataset

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### Please provide the name of the data holder/data manager \*

This is the name of the person who manages the dataset. Please note this will be viewed publicly as part of your dataset's metadata.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### Please provide the email address of the data holder/data manager \*

Please note this will be viewed publicly as part of your dataset's metadata.

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

## About the Organisation

### Organisation Name \*

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### Please provide the Latitude and Longitude for your organisation's main office/headquarters \*

This is so that people can explore the organisations as displayed on a map and see an overview of the data holdings


Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### Please provide a URL to your organisation's webpage or the relevant project page. \*

Your answer \_\_\_\_\_

### Please upload your organisation or project logo if you would like this to be included within the metadata description

Upload 1 supported file. Max 10 MB.

 Add File



# The Basking Shark Data Directory

## Basking Shark Data Directory

This directory is intended to signpost towards which organisations collect and/or hold data relating to Basking Sharks. Relevant contact information for each dataset is provided, along with links to where data can be accessed (if open access) or requested from.

You can use this directory to find datasets in, or overlapping with, your area of interest. **NB:** if you are using datasets with overlapping ranges, there may be duplicate data between datasets.

To view the information held for a dataset, select the relevant row from the table and the key information will be displayed to the right.

Please note, requesting data does not guarantee it will be provided.

DATA TYPE

Choose



ORGANISATION

Choose



ACCESS

Choose



## Basking Shark Directory

ORGANISATION	TYPE	ACCE
Association pour l'étude et la conservation ...	Tracking	Rest
Association pour l'étude et la conservation ...	Sighting	Rest
Big Fish Lab, Oregon State University	Sighting and Survey	Rest
Center for Coastal Studies	Survey	Rest

## Dataset details

### DESCRIPTION

Basking Shark sightings, largely from the UK and Ireland. This data is in part derived from the Marine Conservation Society's Basking Shark Watch.

### ORGANISATION

Shark Trust

### WEBSITE

<https://baskingsharks.org/>



# How to participate

- Scan this QR and fill in the form
- If possible - make your data searchable and accessible (GBIF, EMODnet Biology, OBIS etc)

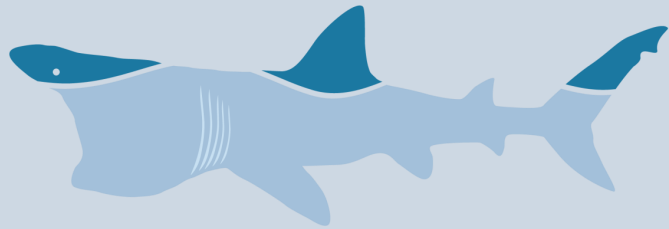
Contribute to  
the Directory!



# Any Questions?

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Cat Gordon – [cat@sharktrust.org](mailto:cat@sharktrust.org)



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